

William Allen House (Beverly Plantation)
W. side County Rd. 245
Pearl vicinity
Elbert County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-34

HABS,
GA
53 - PEARL V.
1 -

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WILLIAM ALLEN HOUSE
(Beverly Plantation)

HABS NO. GA-34

Location: West side County Road 245, 1.8 miles north of intersection with Highway 72, .2 mile north of Beaverdam Creek, Pearl vicinity, Elbert County, Georgia.

USGS Heardmont Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.340258.3774081.

Present Owner/ Mr. and Mrs. E. Chandler Brown, Route 6, Elberton,
Occupant: Georgia 30635

Present Use: Residence

Significance: This two-story frame house contains one of the oldest remaining structures in Elbert County. The two-story central portico, added about forty years after the initial construction, is an interesting early rural adaptation of the Classic Revival style. The site is significant in that it is an extant Georgia plantation dating back to the earliest days of settlement in Elbert County.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The original portion of the William Allen House is believed to have been constructed ca. 1790. Although many local history accounts have placed the date of the house at 1784, there is no documentary evidence for this date.

William Allen, who was originally from North Carolina, was definitely in Elbert County by 1790 when he served as a captain in the Elbert County Militia (McIntosh, p. 330). A letter of June 28, 1794, mentions "the house of William Allen" in Elbert County (McIntosh, p. 71).

2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: How William Allen acquired the land on which the house was built is not known.

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- 1794 Deed September 29, 1794. Book B, p. 189. William Allen to John Waller. 800 acres "including the plantation whereon he now lives" and lot no. 30 in Petersburg, Ga.; 150 pounds.
- 1799 Deed June 13, 1799. Recorded June 20, 1799. Book F p. 30. John Waller to William Allen. 800 acres as above for \$1,000.
- 1826 Will written September 20, 1825, Probated May 1, 1826, Book N, p. 70. William Allen "to beloved wife Sarah, the land, plantation, slaves, etc. for life to be divided at her death between my three sons..." Inventory of his estate May 12, 1826, Mixed Records, pp. 95-7.
- 1830 Deed July 8, 1830. Recorded October 11, 1830. Book V, p. 184. Singleton W. Allen to Beverly Allen. "...the undivided third part willed to me by my father late of Elbert County deceased after the death of my mother Sarah Allen..."
- 1830 Deed June 5, 1830. Recorded October 11, 1830. Book V, p. 185, Thomas Allen to Beverly Allen. "one undivided third part of a tract containing 422 acres...willed to me by my father William Allen deceased...at the death of my mother, Sarah Allen..." for \$1,000.
- 1830 Agreement June 5, 1830. Recorded October 11, 1830. Book V, p. 184, Sarah Allen and Beverly Allen. Sarah rented the plantation and dwelling house to her son Beverly for the rest of her life for \$125 a year.
- 1846 Will written December 2, 1845. Probated 1846. Book A, p.90. Beverly Allen "to my beloved wife Mildred W. Allen that part of the tract of land on which I now live on the north side of Beaverdam Creek..."
- 1848 Elbert County Marriage Records, October 26, 1848. Mrs. Mildred W. Allen married John F. Gray.
- 1871 Deed October 25, 1871. Recorded November 23, 1871. Book EE, p. 221. Mildred W. Gray to Beverly A. Henry (her nephew) and his children. Two tracts: 275.62 acres on the Beaverdam Creek, and 35.68 acres "Mildred Gray reserves the lower room in the North-east corner of her present mansion or dwelling house on the first mentioned tract with right-of-way to and from the same whenever she may wish to occupy said room." Mildred W. Gray died in 1887.

- 1891 Deed July 12, 1891. Recorded July 31, 1892. Book PP, p. 287-8, Beverly A. Henry to Lucie E. Henry, his daughter, two tracts, 251.5 acres and 35.5 acres for \$5,000.
- 1901 Will 1901, Book C. p. 111, Lucie E. Henry "to my beloved sisters Ella Mae Henry and Mrs. Mildred E. Elliott all of my property." Inventory in Inventory and Appraisement Book 1, p. 53, shows 437 acres.
- 1912 Will written March 9, 1911. Probated August 5, 1912. Book C, p. 295, Ellie Mae Henry to Mildred E. Elliott; at her death, to her brother Overton L. Henry; at his death, to his children.
- 1928 Deed June 12, 1928. Recorded June 15, 1928. Book 17, p. 111, Mildred E. Elliott to Overton L. Henry; at his death to his children; 80 acres "being the balance remaining of the Lucy E. Henry tract of land after the conveyance of 70.31 acres to Wateree Power Company;" for \$838.50.
- 1934 Will written May 7, 1934, common form July 6, 1934, solemn form, August 6, 1934, Book D, p. 205 and 206. Mildred E. Elliott to Overton L. Henry, her brother, and then at his death to Lila Henry Redmon and Alan Beverly Henry, his children. Inventory in Inventory and Appraisal Book 3, p. 64, shows 498 acres.
- 1942 Deed December 4, 1942. Recorded February 19, 1943. Book 34, p. 420, Alan B. Henry to Lila Henry Redmon and W. Fletcher Redmon his half interest in the 498 acres.
- 1946 Deed September 13, 1946. Recorded September 13, 1946. Book 40, p. 93, Lila H. Redmon and W. Fletcher Redmon to E. Chandler Brown.
- 1978 Affidavit of Possession, February 16, 1978. Recorded February 16, 1978, Book 119, p. 432, E. Chandler Brown.
4. Original plans and construction: The original one-story frame structure now forms the rear part of the house. This structure had a gable roof which extended at the front and rear to cover porches. There were gable-end chimneys on the north and south, two front doors, and one rear entrance. The interior was divided into two rooms and a loft. Solid wood paneling which formed the walls is 2" thick. The present dining room, which is in the southwest corner of the house and would have comprised

one of the two original rooms, has a decorative mantelpiece, chair rail, and simple paneled wainscoting. The porch has H and L hinges. An analysis of the original plans is incomplete as HABS researchers were not permitted full access to the house and detailed measured drawings were not made.

5. Alterations and additions: The character of this house was completely changed by a two-story addition on the front of the house. This addition, which made the house into a T-shaped structure, consisted of a wide center hall with a room on each side on both floors. The front porch of the original section now functions as a longitudinal hall. A one-story porch extends across the front of the new section. The center of this porch is a two-story portico, with a lunette in the pediment and a wooden rail at the second level. Fluted columns serve as porch posts.

This alteration was probably made ca. 1830 by Beverly Allen, who acquired full title to this building at that time. As a State Senator in the 1820's, Beverly Allen was exposed to the porticoed houses in Milledgeville, then the State Capital. A direct stylistic precedent is thought to be Rose Hill, a similar building constructed in 1828 and demolished in 1964. Rose Hill was located just a few miles away and featured a two-story central portico (Cooper).

When the Browns acquired the house in 1946, they made several alterations, according to Mrs. E. Chandler Brown. Running water and electricity had never been installed in the house. The Browns placed a sink in the northwest room in the place where a fireplace had once been. A bathroom was added at the north end of the longitudinal hallway. On the second floor, a bathroom was added directly over the first-floor bathroom. A window was moved from the west side, north end, of the longitudinal hall to the west side of the southwest room. On the exterior, the Browns removed the front porch railing.

B. Historical Context

William Allen (1756-1826), who built the original Beverly plantation house, played an important role in early Elbert County history. He is thought to be the son of a

William Allen of Virginia (1729-1789), whose second wife was named Beverly (DAR Patriot Index). A William Allen was included on the "Pay Bill of His Majesty's Troops of Rangers doing Duty in the Ceded Lands" from September 1773 until March 1776 (Davis, p. 36). The troop was assigned to protect inhabitants and keep order in the lands ceded by the Indians to Great Britain in 1773. This land included what was to become Elbert County in 1790. William Allen was known to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War (McIntosh, p. 185). He was living in Raleigh, North Carolina, in about 1780 (Elberton Star, May 13, 1892).

Probably about 1790, William Allen moved to Elbert County and built his plantation house. His brother, Beverly, was an itinerant Methodist minister who was exceedingly popular. One day in 1794, while William and Beverly were in Augusta contracting business, Beverly shot and killed U.S. Marshall Robert Forsyth, who was trying to arrest them on a debt charge. The Allens fled to William's house, where Beverly was found by the authorities hiding in the garret. The brothers were arrested and then set free by a group of local citizens. (See Supplemental Material for further documentation of this incident.) He bought the land back in 1799 and continued to live there.

William Allen was active in local politics, serving as Commissioner of Elbert County Roads in 1791 (Delwyn Associates, p. 173), as Elbert County Justice of the Peace in 1796, and as a State Representative in 1805 (McIntosh, p. 166). By the time of his death in 1826, he was clearly a well-to-do man. Tracts mentioned in his will, along with his 800-acre plantation, brought his land holdings to 2042½ acres in three counties. A cotton gin and notes for due cotton in his estate inventory point to his mills which were located on Beaverdam Creek. His estate inventory shows that he owned 25 slaves. Mahogany-framed mirrors, books, maps, wine glasses, silver spoons, and tongs suggest that he was educated and wealthy.

After William Allen's death, his son Beverly acquired shares of the plantation from his brothers. He was as successful a businessman as his father. His tavern license was granted in 1803 (McIntosh, p. 83). He ran a grist mill and cotton gin on Beaverdam Creek south of the house site. The grist mill was sold by Beverly Allen's widow to William Mattox, who built the Heardmont Cotton Mills by enlarging and remodeling the old

mill house (Star, July 23, 1889). The mill was destroyed by a lightning fire in 1890 (Star, June 20, 1890). A Post Office known as Allen's Mills was in existence during the 1830's with Beverly Allen as Postmaster (Record of Appointment of Postmasters). Beverly Allen was also a politician. He served as a State Representative from 1817 to 1819, as a State Senator in 1822-24, 1826-27, 1830-31, and 1834, and as Justice of the Inferior County Court in 1821-28 and 1833-37. At his death, he owned what was probably one of the most prosperous antebellum plantations in Elbert County.

Two years after Beverly Allen's death, his widow married John F. Gray and moved out of state. A few years later he died and she returned to the plantation. On the eve of the Civil War, in 1860, Mildred Gray owned real estate valued at \$11,380 and personal property valued at \$30,614. By 1870, farm production had fallen off sharply. She began selling off and giving away many of her land holdings. On October 25, 1871, she gave the house and 311 acres to her nephew Beverly A. Henry in trust for his children, reserving a room in the house for herself.

Beverly A. Henry was a prominent doctor in Elbert County. He was also on the Board of Trustees of the Heardmont Cotton Mills. He sold the tracts deeded to him by his aunt to his daughter, Lucie E. Henry, in 1891. Lucie and her sister Ella Mae are known to have lived in the house during this time. Ella Mae was Elberton Postmistress 1889-93 and 1897-1902 (McIntosh, p. 176). Lucie died in 1901 and Ella Mae died in 1912, shortly after being declared a lunatic. The surviving sister, Mildred Elliott, took possession of the plantation.

After her death in 1934, her brother, Overton L. Henry, became the owner. After his death in 1942, his children acquired the plantation. The plantation was sold out of the family for the first time in 1946, to the present owners.

When the Browns acquired the plantation, Will Mattox, a black farm worker who had been employed on the farm since 1926, was living in the house as caretaker. He moved to the tenant house and left the farm in 1951. Now in his 90's, he still lives in the area. The Browns hired George T. Bradford, another black man, to be general caretaker of the land. He died ca. 1970.

The Richard B. Russell Dam Lake, scheduled to fill in 1982, will surround the Beverly Plantation on the north, south, and west. The Corps of Engineers bought 154 acres of the Browns' 243-acre tract. Although the William Allen House will not be reached by the lake's waters, other effects of the lake on the house, such as a rising water table, have not been determined.

Prepared by:
Marcie Robertson
Assistant Historian
HABS
Summer 1980

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-story Classical Revival style house was built onto the front of a one-story two-room earlier dwelling.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This T-shaped structure, two stories in the front and one story in the rear, measures 50' across its five-bay front by 61' deep.
2. Foundations: Granite fieldstone.
3. Walls: The walls are weatherboard over frame, the weatherboard on the rear section being narrower than on the front. The exterior wall on the front of the house under the porch is covered with wide horizontal planks laid flush.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame, not available for inspection.
5. Porches: There is a one-story porch across the front. It is mounted on a granite foundation and has a wood floor. The hip roof is supported by eight fluted wood columns, which neither taper nor have capitals. In the center of this porch, a second-story porch is located. It has a gable roof with a semicircular window in the pediment, six columns similar to those on the first level, and a plain wooden balustrade running between them.

The rear porch is covered by an extension of the gable roof. It is partially enclosed by a half-wall and screens.

6. Chimneys: There are large exterior brick chimneys on the gable ends of the front section. A third exterior brick chimney is located on the south gable end of the rear portion. On the north gable end of the rear portion is a small square exterior brick chimney. Unlike the others, it has no shoulders.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main front door has an eight-light transom window and sidelights.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Most of the windows have nine-over-nine-light double-hung sash and louvered shutters.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: There is a gable roof which continues at the same slope to cover the one-story section in the rear.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The cornice is boxed and there are small returns on the gable ends of the front section.
 - c. Dormers: The gable roof over the central portico extends through the main roof to form a gable dormer in the center of the west side. This dormer has two nine-over-nine-light double-hung sash windows.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior was not available to HABS researchers. Contemporary photographs are located in the Georgia Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, 270 Washington Street, Atlanta, Georgia. See also the National Register Nomination Form.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces east on the top of a knoll. It is surrounded by fields with two ponds, one to the north and one to the west. Between the house and Beaverdam Creek to the south are woods. A small dwelling is located across the road, about 500' from the house. The Allen family cemetery sits behind it. A tenant house is located approximately .7 mile north on the road.

2. Landscaping: The formal garden enclosed by a short brick wall is located south of the house. Brick walks, laid out in a rectangular arrangement, surround grass, boxwood, and crepe myrtle. A brick walk leads directly out the front of the house.
3. Outbuildings:
 - a. Garage: The two-bay concrete-block garage, built ca. 1946, measures 24' x 24'-7". It is located just southwest of the house.
 - b. Barn: The one-story gable-roofed barn, built ca. 1900, measures 18'-2" x 20'-2". There are weather-board sides, shingled gables, and a metal roof. It is located west of the garage.
 - c. Well House: The one-story gable-roofed well house has open sides. A small shed-roofed addition with shingled walls is attached. The structure measures 8'-4" x 12'-5" and is located west of the house.

Prepared by:
Alison K. Hoagland
Historian
HABS
March 1981

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Aerial Views:

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, air photo, 13105 173-75, tract no. 4177, photo shot 12/3/72.

University of Georgia air photo collection, Map Room, Science Library, UGA, Athens, Georgia 30602. (1) 1938, photo JW-2-41, index sheet 2 of 4 (only index sheet on file); (2) 1942, photo JW-2C96 and photo JW-2C97, index sheet 4 of 10 (only index sheet on file); (3) 1973, photo 13105 173-75 and photo 13105 173-76 (only index sheet on file)

- ##### B. Interview:
- Mrs. E. Chandler Brown interviewed by Marcie Robertson and John Johnson, August 8, 1980, at William Allen House, Elbert County, Georgia.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary sources:

Elbert County Census of Agriculture, Georgia State Archives, Archives and Records Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Elbert County Census of Population, 1820-1860, Georgia State Archives, Archives and Records Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30334. Also, at University of Georgia Library, Athens, Ga. 30602.

Elbert County Deed Records, Office of the Clerk of Courts, Elbert County Courthouse, Elberton, Ga. 30635.

Elbert County Probate Court Records, Office of the Judge of the Probate Court, Elbert County Courthouse, Elberton, Ga. 30635.

Elbert County Tax Digests, Georgia State Archives, Archives and Records Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30334.

Real Estate Files, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Real Estate Office, Elberton, Ga. 30635.

Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-Sept. 30, 1971, Georgia, Decatur through Houston Counties, Micro copy No. M-841, Roll No. 23, National Archives. (On file at the University of Georgia Library, Athens, Ga. 30602)

Tombstone Inscription of Robert Forsythe, St. Paul's Church, Augusta, Ga.

2. Secondary sources:

"Beverly Allen," Elberton Star, May 13, 1892.

DAR Patriot Index, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Diamond Jubilee Administration, Washington: 1966.

Davis, Robert Scott, Jr., compiler, The Wilkes County Papers 1773-1833, Southern Historical Press, c/o Rev. S. Emmett Lucas, P.O. Box 738, Easley, S.C. 29640. Pub. 1979.

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"Eulogy of Mrs. Mildred W. Gray," Elberton Gazette, 1887,
From Beverly Plantation Vertical File, Elbert Co. Library,
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Green, Henry D., "A Ga. Treasure--The Old Governor's
Mansion," Columns, Fall 1978, Vol. XXIII, No. 2.

Jones-McRee, Janelle, "Proud Old Homes of Elbert County,"
Georgia Magazine, Feb.-March 1965, Vol. XLII, No. 5.

Kahn, Lea, "Elbert House Withstands Time's Tests,"
Anderson Independent/Daily Mail, Sunday, September 11,
1977, pg. 1D.

MacGregor, Elizabeth Z. National Register Nomination
Form. December 10, 1974. Amendment by Patricia Irwin
Cooper, December 23, 1975. Located in Beverly Plantation
File, Georgia Historic Preservation Section, Department
of Natural Resources, 270 Washington, Atlanta, Ga.,
along with structural site and survey form.

McIntosh, John H., The Official History of Elbert County
1790-1935, Atlanta, Ga.: The Cherokee Publishing
Company, 1968.

"Miss Lucy Henry Dead," Elberton Star, May 30, 1901.

Norman, Annie, et al. (compilers), Thomas Maxwell of Va.
and Ga. and His Descendants with a Number of Allied
Families, Helen Maxwell Longino: 1956.

White, George, Statistics of the State of Georgia, Spar-
tanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Co., 1972. Originally
published 1849.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of the historic resources within the Richard B. Russell Dam project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), of the National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER), a division of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCERS), in cooperation with HCERS' Interagency Archeological Services (IAS), Atlanta, Georgia, and cosponsored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District Office in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in construction of the dam. The project was executed under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER; John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, in the HABS Field Office, Elberton, Georgia.

Recording was conducted during the summer of 1980 by Richard J. Cronenberger (staff architect), project supervisor; LeAnne Baird (University of Nebraska), project historian; Marcie L. Robertson (University of Georgia), assistant historian; Dennis M. O'Kain (University of Georgia), project photographer; Reginald A. Berry (staff architect), foreman; William F. Hand (Auburn University), foreman; and student architects Carol B. DeGroote (University of Maryland), Dale R. Gerber (University of Minnesota), Cynthia Wilson-Glicksman (University of Arizona), and Mark Schara (University of Michigan). The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) historian was John P. Johnson. The clerk-typist was Teena Kenimer (University of Georgia). The written data were edited in the HABS Washington Office by Alison K. Hoagland in February 1981.

Supplemental Information

Item

The following three pages were quoted from:

White, George, Statistics of the State of Georgia, Spartanburg, S.C.:

The Reprint Co., 1972. Originally published 1849.

Information concerns Beverly Allen I, brother of William Allen, and William Allen who built the Beverly Plantation House.

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abusive denunciations of the republicans when he was a member of the Virginia Legislature, made him long remembered. He died March 2d, 1835, in Bath county, Virginia, aged 77 years.

BEVERLY ALLEN.-- In the year 179—, Beverly Allen and his wife carried on the business of merchandise, in the county of Elbert. Their store-house and residence were on the hill rising from Beaver Dam creek, on the side of the road leading from Fish Dam ford on Broad river, to the Cherokee ford on the Savannah. They were both young, and belonged to a family which emigrated from Virginia to Georgia, soon after the revolutionary war. Beverly Allen was handsome, with a fine voice and ardent temperament. He was one of the converts of Bishop Asbury, during his tour through Georgia. From public praying he commenced exhorting, and soon after preaching. Without any of the learning of Whitefield, he had much of his enthusiastic eloquence. Preaching was a rarity when Beverly Allen became a convert. Men pricked up their ears, their souls were stirred within them, when they heard striking exhibitions of the punishments of the lower world for their sins, and the joys of the upper for their repentance.

When Beverly Allen held forth upon these subjects, the whole population crowded together to hear him. He became the idol of the people.

Some time in the year 1795, Beverly Allen, with his brother, went to Augusta, to buy goods with the money they had, and the credit they could obtain. Whilst there, the foreign merchant of whom they had purchased their first stock of goods, found them buying goods of others, instead of first discharging their debt to him. He caused a Ca. Sa. writ to be issued for their arrest, returnable to the United States District Court. The Allens being informed of this, armed themselves and took possession of a room in the public house, and fastened the doors against entrance. The marshal Forsyth, the father of the celebrated John Forsyth, pursued them, forced open the door, and was upon his entrance shot dead by Beverly Allen. The Allens immediately fled to Elbert county, and were pursued by a warrant for their ar-

rest, upon a charge of murder. William Barnet, for a long time afterward a well-known public man, and member of the Legislature, and member of Congress, was the Sheriff of Elbert county. Upon receiving the warrant he assembled a large guard, and went in pursuit. The Allens had concealed themselves in a high log-house, which stood for a long time after the event alluded to, on the side of the road near Beaver Dam creek. The place of their concealment being communicated to the Sheriff, he surrounded it with his guard. The doors were barricaded so as to prevent entrance. After many fruitless attempts to get the Allens out, the house was set on fire. Billy Allen, finding resistance in vain, opened the doors and gave himself up. The fire was put out, and search commenced for Beverly Allen, the principal offender. He was at first concealed between the ceiling of the cockloft, and the roof. The Allens were immediately confined in the jail of the county. This became known to the people. The news spread that the servant of God was in jail for resisting an effort to take from him his liberty, to separate him from his home, friends, and flock, by confining him in jail in Augusta, through the process of the United States Court, the instrument by which the federalists intended to deprive the people of their rights, and for a debt to one who was not a citizen of the State. In these days the people were a law unto themselves. The restraints of government were very slight during the dominion of Great Britain, and scarcely felt at all in the States, especially on the frontiers of the new States; voluntary associations called Lynch Men afforded some protection against thieves. Personal rights were secured from violation only by the sure aim of a good gun, or a heavy fist and a fearless spirit. Liberty, and especially liberty of person was, from the habits of speaking, acting, and feeling of the times of the Revolution, and immediately after, considered by many as the chief good. In such times, among such people, operated upon by such causes, the Allens could not remain prisoners. The Sheriff, finding that their rescue would be attempted, set off with his prisoners for Washington, Wilkes county. He was headed on the road, and considered it safest to return. He

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increased his guard to sixteen men, but many of these proved to be the friends of the prisoners. On the night after his return from the attempt to secure the prisoners, in Wilkes jail, the jail of Elbert was attacked by 200 men, the doors forced open, and the Allens permitted to escape. The friends of the prisoners on guard, had, previous to the attack, taken the powder from the locks of the guns of all the guards, from whom any danger was apprehended, except one. Beverly Allen fled to the most distant western frontier of the United States. He lived to old age, apprehensive during his entire life, that he might be arrested for the killing of Forsyth. Billy Allen, whose crime consisted in being in company with his brother when the act of violence was done, was permitted soon after to return to his home, where he remained unmolested during his life. As soon as search after Beverly Allen had ceased, inquiries began to be made about the persons who were engaged in his rescue. John Rucker, one of the rescuers, used to amuse himself after the alarm had passed away, by telling some of the incidents which he said happened to him whilst concealed to avoid arrest, and which became a sort of sing-song among all the little boys of the country for a long time afterwards. Middleton was Barnet's deputy. They were small, active, quick-spoken men. One of the guard, Thomas Gilmer, was a very fat man, weighing three hundred. Rucker said he had fled to the Savannah river, and concealed himself under its bank. Whilst hid, he heard a great many small frogs crying "Middleton and Barnet! Middleton and Barnet;" and imitating what he was describing, he would compress his lips, and drawing his voice only from his teeth, very quick, he would imitate the sound of the frogs. He said he stood this cry without flinching, but after a while he heard a big bullfrog cry out, "Tom Gilmer! Tom Gilmer!" and this he would repeat with swelled cheeks, and full voice, which he said he could not stand. He then plunged into the water, and made for the Carolina side of the river.

THE FREEMANS—Col. Halman Freeman and John Freeman, were among the first settlers of Wilkes county. They both engaged in the strife between the Whigs and Tories of Upper Georgia, during the latter part of the revolutionary

Supplemental Information

Item

The following two pages were quoted from:

McIntosh, John H., The Official History of Elbert County 1790-1935,
Atlanta, Ga.: The Cherokee Publishing Company, 1968.

These pages include a letter written by William Barnett who pursued William and Beverly Allen I to the William Allen House in Elbert County after Beverly Allen I shot United States Marshal Robert Forsythe in Augusta, Ga. This letter would be the most accurate description of an incident that has become a legend.

porated town site, two wealthy and cultured brothers from Virginia, settled and engaged in an extensive mercantile business. Their names were Beverly and William Allen. They not only engaged in business in Georgia, but had two establishments in South Carolina as well. In the readjustments occasioned by the rise of cotton, they became heavily indebted to wholesalers in Augusta and in consequence several suits were filed against them.

During the early part of June, 1794, the brothers made a trip to Augusta for the purpose of making settlements. Just as they entered the town, and before they had been able to interview their creditors, one Robert Forsythe, then United States Marshal for Georgia, and father of John Forsythe who later became Governor of Georgia, arrested Beverly Allen. When placed in jail high words ensued between Allen and Forsythe. In defense of his person Beverly Allen shot and killed the Marshal. William Allen, with the assistance of some of the creditors, with whom he had reached satisfactory settlements, released his brother and they made their way to Elbert County unmolested.

Beverly Allen, a few years later, removed to Kentucky, where he lived to be 90 years of age.

Soon after reaching his new home Allen entered the ministry and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He left no descendants in Elbert County, but a number in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was a splendid specimen of physical manhood, more than six feet in height, courtly in manner and gifted in speech.

His brother, William, remained in Elbert County, and has a large number of descendants. His son, by his second wife Nancy Walthall, Singleton Walthall Allen married Jane Lanier Heard, daughter of Governor Stephen Heard and Elizabeth Darden. He was the only child, his mother dying a few months after his birth.

The following interesting letter written to Governor George Mathews by William Barnett sheds the true light upon an incident that has heretofore been written of in a misleading manner:

"Elbert County, 28th June, 1794.

"Dear Sir:

"On the 15th instant the sheriff of this County with myself and several others went to the house of Mr. William Allen where we had reason to believe that Beverly Allen who had escaped from Richmond County Goal, was concealed. We accordingly found him very ingeniously secreted in the garret of the house of Wm. Allen. We carried him from thence to our goal. In about two hours after our arrival we were surprised by an armed force to the amount of some thirty odd, headed by Wm. Allen whose intentions he said were to protect Beverly Allen from insults and from being carried to Augusta, though for some cause best known to themselves, they retreated without any further moles-

tation. Our guard at that time was some 7 or 8 armed men. I immediately advised the sheriff to call for assistance from the Militia officers some of which had not timely notice others being the particular friends of Allen, we were supplied with men who were our enemies. The 17th instant about 40 or 50 armed men came (from the best information) who were disguised with their faces blacked. The officer of the guard seeing their number ordered his men not to fire, as he had but ten guns and they in poor order. The mob advanced and rescued the prisoner. We have on slight testimony apprehended four of the party to of which were Militia Captains. It is extraordinary to think of the influence this man has had on the minds of the citizens of this County. I think they are a majority in his favor. I have thought proper to mention these facts as they all came to my knowledge that should your excellency think it worthy of an Executive interference we should be happy to receive any assistance you might think proper to give (I mean the Proclamation being made which would call more immediately the attention of the officer.)

I am very Respectfully your Excellency's very
Humble Servant, Wm. Barnett.

His Excellency,
George Mathews, Esq., Augusta."

The writer of the foregoing letter was born March 4, 1761, and died October 2, 1834. He married Mary Meriwether, born 1766, died 1850. He was Tax Collector of Richmond County, Georgia, from January 1, 1783, until June 23, 1784, and also served in the same capacity 1786 to April, 1789. Prior to 1784, he served as Sheriff of Richmond County and on August 7, 1790, he was a first lieutenant in the Richmond County Militia.

In the latter part of 1790, he removed to the new County of Elbert and was one of the first five Justices of the Peace. He was also elected a delegate to the Constitution Convention of 1795, and again served with Richardson Hunt and Benjamin Moseley as delegate to the Constitution Convention of 1798. Barnett served as a member of the Georgia Senate from 1796 through 1811, and presided over that body in the year 1801. He was a representative in the lower branch of the United States Congress, 1811-1815. Barnett, by profession, was a physician, but gave little time to the practice.

One can readily see where the sympathy of the people of Elbert County lay, after reading the above letter, and even the Governor, himself, knowing both Allen and Barnett personally, showed no disposition to interfere. The "Tempest in the tea pot" seemed to have been entirely of Barnett's brewing.

Item

Robert Forsythe tombstone inscription, St. Paul's Church, Augusta, Ga.

TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION-ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, AUGUSTA GA.

ROBERT FORSYTHE- To the memory of Robert Forsythe, Federal Marshall of Ga., who in the discharge of the duties of his office, fell a victim to his respect to the laws of his country, Jan. 11, 1794. His virtues as an officer of rank, and unusual confidence in the war which gave Independence to the U. S. and in all the tender and endearing relations of social life have left impressions on his country. Robert Forsythe was the father of John Forsyth, the Statesman. Robert Forsythe and Beverly Allen were both patriots of 1776, both determined, both unflinching in courage. They met and one died. There is nothing, with this exception, to mar the memory of Beverly Allen or the character of a man whose usefulness can now hardly be estimated. His eloquence and purity of living won for him the love and respect of the people of Elbert Co. and many stood ready to protect him with their lives. He had chosen the ministry as his calling but after the trouble with Forsythe he went to Ky. and devoted himself to the study of medicine. He became one of the best beloved physicians of his section.

ADDENDUM TO:
WILLIAM ALLEN HOUSE
(Beverly Plantation)
Richard B. Russell Dam Project
County Road 245
Pearl vicinity
Elbert County
Georgia

HABS GA-34
GA,53-PEAR.V,1-

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001